

year alone, more than 1,100 Kentucky families have spent nearly 15,000 nights in the two homes operated by these charities. The two homes operate thanks to the generosity of Kentucky's McDonalds' owners, a broad swath of Kentucky businesses, countless individual donors, and the hundreds of thousands of hours given by tireless volunteers.

For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with the Ronald McDonald House, it serves as a home away from home, at low or no cost, for the families of children who are hospital patients. At a time when a family is undergoing such a crisis as the illness of a child, infant, or newborn, the last thing these families need to worry about is finding housing near the hospital. The Ronald McDonald House eases that need by providing a home away from home for families of children receiving health care at area medical facilities while also lending support to other organizations that aid children. Today there are 125 local chapters in 55 countries.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana first opened in Louisville in September 1984. Since their most recent expansion in 2009, they feature 36 guest rooms, each accommodating up to four people.

In 1992, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana helped pioneer one of the first Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in the world—a smaller version of a Ronald McDonald House located inside a hospital so a parent is only steps away from their seriously ill child. Today there are Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in three Louisville hospitals.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass in Lexington similarly opened their doors in 1984, and have since expanded to 20 rooms. In 2005, through a partnership with the University of Kentucky, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass began the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to offer eastern Kentucky's children free professional dental care and education aboard a state-of-the-art mobile clinic. Centered in Hazard, KY, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile cares for underserved children in their own neighborhoods and schools.

Together, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of both Kentuckiana and the Bluegrass have accomplished a great deal for the Commonwealth and helped thousands of Kentucky families. Kentucky residents and businesses are proud to have supported them for 30 years, and I know will continue to do so for many years more. I want to thank the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kentuckiana and the Bluegrass for serving as the home away from home for distressed families with a child in the hospital for 30 years. Kentucky is proud of these institutions and the many people behind them who make them work.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMY RUSSELL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and legendary Kentuckian, Wild Turkey Distillery's Master Distiller Jimmy Russell. This year marks the 60th year Jimmy has been making Bourbon for Wild Turkey, a fact that the distillery is rightfully proud to celebrate. As a 60-year Bourbon veteran, Jimmy is the longest tenured active spirits master distiller in the world.

Kentucky is, of course, the birthplace of Bourbon. The drink itself is named for Bourbon County, KY, in the heart of the Bluegrass State, where the product first emerged. Kentucky produces 95 percent of the world's Bourbon supply, and Kentucky's iconic Bourbon brands ship more than 30 million gallons of the spirit to 126 countries, making Bourbon the largest export category among all U.S. distilled spirits. Not only is Kentucky the overwhelming producer of the world's Bourbon, Bourbon gives much back to Kentucky. It is a vital part of the state's tourism and economy.

Jimmy grew up only 5 miles away from the Wild Turkey Distillery, located in Lawrenceburg, KY. His passion for Bourbon led him to study under whiskey luminaries, including Bill Hughes, Wild Turkey's second master distiller; and Ernest W. Ripy, Jr., great-nephew of distillery founder James Ripy and Wild Turkey's third master distiller. Jimmy recalls being taken under Bill's wing and learning everything about the business from the ground up. Since becoming master distiller in the mid-1960s, he has traveled the world as an unofficial ambassador of Bourbon, introducing people from as far and wide as Japan and Australia to American's native spirit.

Over the past 60 years, Jimmy has been responsible for the launches of several new Wild Turkey brands and expressions, such as Tradition, Tribute, 17-year-old Wild Turkey for Japan, Rare Breed, American Spirit, Kentucky Spirit and Russell's Reserve, which he cocreated with his son and distilling partner Eddie Russell. Jimmy broke new ground in 1976 with the first honeyed Bourbon, at the time called Wild Turkey Liqueur. The evolution of that product today is known as American Honey. Jimmy is also responsible for overseeing the production of Wild Turkey 101, the distillery's flagship brand. This fall, Wild Turkey released a commemorative Diamond Anniversary limited-edition Bourbon created by Jimmy's son, distilling partner and Bourbon Hall of Famer Eddie Russell. As for Jimmy himself, he is known to enjoy his Bourbon neat or with a touch of branch water.

As a legend in the distilled spirits industry, Jimmy is a member of the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Whiskey Hall of Fame and a whiskey judge for the International Wine and Spirits Competition. He has been honored by the Commonwealth of Kentucky General Assembly,

been anointed a Kentucky Colonel, and received the key to the city from the mayor of Lawrenceburg.

When not hard at work at Wild Turkey, Jimmy spends time with his wife Joretta. They have three children, Eddie, Mike, and Kathy, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. An avid sports fan, Jimmy is a lifelong supporter of local Anderson County High School athletic programs for girls and boys.

I want to congratulate Jimmy Russell for reaching his 60th anniversary of work at Wild Turkey Distillery. His lifetime of achievement in the distilled spirits industry is certainly something to be proud of. I know my Senate colleagues join me in commending Jimmy for decades of success.

TRIBUTE TO MARCUS ADAMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to SPC Marcus Adams. Adams hails from Magoffin County, KY, and proudly served his country on a tour of duty in Iraq.

Adams graduated from Magoffin County High School, and after his freshman year in college he decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. Because of the strong military tradition in his family—his father, grandfather, and two uncles all served—he felt it was an easy decision to carry on that legacy.

After completing his basic training and advanced individual combat training, Adams was assigned to the 555th Engineer Brigade. In September of 2008, he and his brigade were sent to Balad, Iraq, where they would remain for the duration of their yearlong tour of duty.

In Iraq, Adams was responsible for all of his brigade's technology. Managing the computer networks, servers, and radios were tasks that all fell under his purview.

Adams is now happily back in his old Kentucky home with his wife Ashleigh and his son Alistair and will soon be joined by his first daughter Hermione.

For his honorable service to this country, he is well deserving of praise from this body. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in honoring SPC Marcus Adams.

The Salyersville Independent recently published an article detailing Adams' service in Iraq. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Salyersville Independent, July 3, 2014]

QUICK DECISION LEADS TO IRAQ

(By Heather Oney)

One "drop of the hat" decision took Marcus Adams all the way to Iraq.

Adams, a graduate of Magoffin County High School, was 19 years old and had completed one year of college when he came in one afternoon in February 2007 and told his wife, Ashleigh Nicole Prince Adams, he had joined the Army.

"There were no objections," Adams laughed. "She stayed in college at Morehead and I went to basic training."

Adams said given his family's history, with his dad, grandfather and two uncles serving in the military, it was a no-brainer.

"With 9/11, I felt because everyone else in my family had served, I felt the responsibility to at least do a minimum tour," Adams said. "I didn't feel productive in college and the Army could give me steady employment and healthcare."

Adams finished his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, then his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was then assigned to the 555th Engineer Brigade, based out of Fort Lewis, Washington.

His primary job with the brigade, which he stayed in all through his enlistment, was to be the computer guy, Adams said. He was responsible for the computer networks, servers, radios—any technology—the engineers needed.

In September 2008, only seven years after 9/11, Adams and his brigade were sent to Balad, Iraq, where the team would stay a year.

"The War in the Middle East we have been engaged in for the past 10-plus years is opened by its very nature," Adams said. "In Vietnam, we had an actual bad guy, in uniform and everything. In Iraq and Afghanistan, when the enemy is terror, who is that? There's no way to define victory."

Despite recent developments in Iraq, Adams said, "I'm proud of the work we did. Less than 1 percent of U.S. Americans ever serve in any capacity. The importance of serving and the things I got from it turned me into the person I am."

Adams said the majority of the time he remained on base, which was a former Iraqi Army base where temperatures got up to 130 degrees in the day.

"It's hard to express how hot that is," Adams remembered.

He had one mission off-base, where he said he saw how big the gap was between the poor and the rich in Iraq.

"Here, the poorest people get food stamps and aid," Adams said. "I've seen Iraqi men walking around bare naked, picking up garbage, and the guys working with us are wearing suits and eating lobster. We saw people working at a dump in a junk-yard, building shelters out of it."

While their truck was armored with additional plates, he said a man threw a Russian RKG-3 anti-tank grenade between the truck and the plate, causing damage to the truck, but no one was hurt.

At one point Adams and a few other men received four-day passes and they went to Doha, Qatar, to unwind. Located on the Persian Gulf, Qatar is more of a tourist country, with only 30 percent of the people in the country at any given time actually being residents. Since they were there during Ramadan, when it is illegal to be caught eating or drinking during the daylight hours, Adams said they had to be careful to stay hydrated. They would pull the curtains on the bus they were traveling on and drank anyway in order to not dehydrate in the well over 100-degree temperatures.

In September 2009, he came back to the states, getting to travel all around the country. He worked in Fort Irwin, California, twice, Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Yakima Training Center, Washington.

The hardest part, he said, was reintegrating with his wife.

"It's weird when you leave that long when you've been the head of the household," Adams said. "You have to leave and hand it all over to her—the bills and all the decisions—and when you come back, you try to

come back in the same role, but she's like, I've got this."

Adams said for the first month back, all the soldiers had to report for a daily briefing set up to help them with the reintegration process, but he saw many dealing with infidelity issues when they returned, as well as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"People can get really messed up and they used to just tell us, Suck it up and deal with it," but I think they are seeing now that's not the best policy."

Thankfully, for him, he said they never had to deal with either issue.

He could have gone to Afghanistan for another tour, however, his contract would have had to be extended past the usual six years. Since he was now the father of one, he took the Army's offer for an early honorable discharge, leaving three months early to be with his son. He was ranked as a Specialist, under the E4 pay grade.

Marcus and Ash'leigh Adams have one son, Alistair Dean Adams, who is three years old, and one daughter on the way (at press time), Hermione Sue Adams.

CYPRUS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in 1974, 40 years ago this month, Turkish troops invaded the Republic of Cyprus. By August they had taken control of more than one-third of the island. Turkey's invasion had immediate consequences, such as the confiscation of property and the displacement of Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike.

The invasion has also had more enduring consequences—consequences that are still felt today. The so-called green line, a demilitarized United Nations buffer zone, still cuts a jagged path across the island, dividing one part of the country from the other. It even bisects the capital city of Nicosia. In 1983, Turkish Cypriots declared a separate country in the northern third of Cyprus—a country recognized to this day by Turkey alone.

Vice President JOE BIDEN visited Cyprus in May, and he spoke of being called the White House optimist for his belief that the best days are yet to come. Well, by that standard, my colleagues here must think me the Senate optimist. But I really do believe that the future is bright for Cyprus and that most Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots want to put aside decades of division and move forward together.

I was pleased to read that leaders issued a joint declaration in February calling the status quo "unacceptable", and I am encouraged by the resumption of high-level negotiations on a comprehensive settlement. I think the United States, with its deep ties to Cyprus and Turkey, can play a productive role in facilitating these discussions. I also urge the Government of Turkey to step up and be a constructive partner throughout this process.

It has been my experience that intractable problems rarely have simple or easy solutions, so I am not under any illusions about this. But I have seen what folks can accomplish when they set ideology aside, and I remain a believer in a just settlement that brings an end to 40 years of division and reunites Cyprus.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in my capacity as chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I wish to draw attention to the fact that July 20 marked the 40th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by a Turkish army. Sadly, this year also marks more than 50 years since a power-sharing arrangement between the two communities on Cyprus collapsed following independence from Britain. As the situation in the eastern Mediterranean and the wider Middle East is becoming more volatile and fragile, it is time to end the forcible division of Cyprus, which has endured for far too long.

The continued presence of Turkish troops in the northern part of Cyprus exacerbates a number of human rights concerns including property restitution, restrictions on freedom of worship, and damage to religious and archaeological sites. I have consistently raised these concerns and want to emphasize that all religious sites in the north must be protected.

It is gratifying that the Government of Cyprus remains fully committed to the U.N.-sponsored process to reach a sustainable and enduring settlement that would reunify Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation in accordance with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The joint statement agreed to by Greek Cypriot President Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu on the island in February of this year lays a solid foundation for results-oriented talks. The basic parameters for a solution laid out in the statement should be fully respected.

I applaud the efforts of both leaders to move this process forward. Following the signing of the joint statement in February, President Anastasiades called the chance for peace a "win-win situation." "I believe that a solution that would be accepted by the Greek Cypriots would create stability in the region. Greater cooperation with Turkish Cypriots will contribute to foster growth . . . to do that you have to have a settlement that is not at the expense of one community or to the benefit of the other," he said.

After meeting in April with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu said that during negotiations with Greek Cypriot President Anastasiades, "we'll try to bridge our differences and find a comprehensive settlement in the shortest possible time." "We can finalize a settlement and take it to a separate simultaneous referenda in 2014."

Many observers believe the discovery of vast offshore oil and natural gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean could be a game changer in pressing negotiations forward and could potentially also act as a stabilizing and unifying factor in the eastern Mediterranean. The cheapest and most expeditious way of exporting the reserves, discovered first by Israel and then by Cyprus, would be through an underwater pipeline to Turkey. I certainly